

Dated: April 12, 2016.

**Colette Pollard,**

*Department Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2016-N063;  
FXES1112040000-167-FF04EF2000]

#### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan and Associated Documents; Indian River County, FL**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comment/information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of an incidental take permit (ITP) application and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Remington Stewart, LLP (applicant), requests an ITP under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant's HCP describes the minimization and mitigation measures proposed to address the effects of the project on the Florida scrub-jay. We invite written comments on the ITP application and HCP.

**DATES:** Written comments on the ITP application and HCP should be sent to the South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before May 16, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for information on how to submit your comments on the ITP application and HCP. You may obtain a copy of the ITP application and HCP by writing the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Attn: Permit number TE90853B-0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559. In addition, we will make the ITP application and HCP available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ted Martin, Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, FL (see **ADDRESSES**); telephone: 772-562-3909, extension 232.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We announce the availability of an ITP application and HCP. Remington Stewart, LLP (applicant), requests an

ITP under the Act. The applicant proposes to construct two commercial buildings with associated infrastructure (project) at the southwest corner of US-1 and Jackson Street in Sebastian, Florida, and more specifically at: Latitude 27°49'38.44" N. and longitude -80°28'40.12" W.

Site preparation and construction will result in the permanent alteration of 2.21 acres of suitable Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (scrub-jay) foraging and caching habitat that is within an occupied scrub-jay territory. The applicant's HCP describes the minimization and mitigation measures proposed to address the effects of the project on the scrub jay.

#### **Applicant's Proposed Project**

We received an application from the applicant for an ITP, along with a proposed HCP. The applicant requests a 10-year permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant proposes to construct two commercial buildings with associated infrastructure (project).

Site preparation and construction will result in the permanent alteration of 2.21 acres of suitable Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (scrub-jay) foraging and caching habitat that is within an occupied scrub-jay territory.

The applicant proposes the contribution of \$126,676.56 to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to satisfy mitigation requirements. A receipt from TNC will be provided to the Service.

#### **Our Preliminary Determination**

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's project, including the mitigation measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, our proposed issuance of the requested incidental take permit qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by Department of the Interior implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 46.205, 46.210, and 46.215). We base our determination that issuance of the ITP qualifies as a low-effect action on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of the project would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) Implementation of the project would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) Impacts of the project, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably

foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant. The applicants' proposed project qualifies as a "low-effect" project, as more fully explained in our environmental action statement and associated Low Effect Screening Form. This preliminary determination may be revised based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice.

#### **Public Comment**

If you wish to comment on the ITP application and HCP, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods:

**Email:** [TedMartin@fws.gov](mailto:TedMartin@fws.gov). Use "Attn: Permit number TE90853B-0" as your message subject line.

**Fax:** Ted Martin, (772) 562-4288, Attn: Permit number TE90853B-0.

**U.S. mail:** Ted Martin, Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number TE90853B-0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559.

**In-person drop-off:** You may drop off information during regular business hours at the above office address.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### **Next Steps**

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. The Service will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. The results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP. If it is determined that the requirements of the Act are met, the ITP will be issued.

#### **Authority**

We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: April 7, 2016.

**Roxanna Hinzman,**

*Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-FAC-2016-N054;  
FXFR13360900000-FF09F14000-167]

#### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The ANS Task Force's purpose is to develop and implement a program for U.S. waters to prevent introduction and dispersal of aquatic invasive species (AIS); to monitor, control, and study such species; and to disseminate related information.

**DATES:** The ANS Task Force will meet from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2016; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016; and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2016. For more information, contact the ANS Task Force Executive Secretary (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**ADDRESSES:** The ANS Task Force meeting will take place at the Park Place Hotel, 300 East State Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 (telephone: 231-946-5000).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, ANS Task Force, by telephone at 703-358-2466, or by email at [Susan\\_Pasko@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Pasko@fws.gov). If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., we announce that the ANS Task Force will hold a meeting.

#### Background

The ANS Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Act) (Pub. L. 106-580, as amended), and is composed of 13 Federal and 14 ex-officio members, and co-chaired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The ANS Task Force provides advice on AIS infesting waters of the United States and other nations, among other duties as specified in the Act.

#### Meeting Agenda

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project Updates
- Nonindigenous Aquatic Species and Great Lakes Aquatic Non-indigenous Species Information System Database Update
- Presentation on Idaho's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program
- Update on the Boat Manufacturer Technical Information Report
- Session on Interbasin Transfer of AIS
- Session on Asian Carp Risk Assessments
- Presentation on Genome Editing Applications for AIS
- Update on the Government Accountability Office Report for AIS
- Approval of the Revised New York State ANS Management Plan
- Updates on Efforts to Address AIS Transport at Federally Managed Water Bodies
- Update on the National Early Detection Rapid Response Framework and Emergency Response Funding Plan
- Update on Policy and Planning from the National Invasive Species Council

There will be a field trip Wednesday, May 4, 2016, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Empire, Michigan. The field trip will include additional presentations on and viewing of AIS control projects within Sleeping Bear Dunes. To register for the field trip, contact the ANS Task Force Executive Secretary (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

The final agenda and other related meeting information will be posted on the ANS Task Force Web site at <http://anstaskforce.gov>.

#### Meeting Minutes

Summary minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). The minutes will be available for public inspection within 60 days after the meeting and will be posted on the ANS Task Force Web site at <http://anstaskforce.gov>.

Dated: April 8, 2016.

**David W. Hoskins,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033; FF03E00000-FXES11120300000-167]

#### Availability of the Draft Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), announce the availability of the Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Planning partners include the State conservation agencies from the States of Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), who is representing a consortium of wind energy companies called WEBAT (Wind Energy Bat Action Team), and The Conservation Fund. The Plan Area encompasses all lands within the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The covered species include six federally listed bat and bird species, one bat species that may be listed in the future, and the bald eagle. The activities covered under the MSHCP ("covered activities") include the construction, operation, maintenance, decommissioning and repowering of wind energy facilities, as well as monitoring activities. Up to 18,004 megawatts (MW) of existing facilities and 33,000 MW of new wind development are proposed to be covered under the MSHCP. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the Service is also announcing the availability of the MSHCP draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please submit your comments on or before July 14, 2016. The Service will host two online webinars during the public comment period. The webinar dates have not been determined at this time. Information on how to participate in the webinars will be provided on the Internet at <http://www.midwestwindenergyhpcpeis.org>.

**ADDRESSES:**